

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5481

S E C R E T BELGRADE 1609

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, YO
SUBJECT: CSCE - MEETING WITH YUGOSLAV FOREIGN SECRETARY

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC CALLED THE AMBASSADOR IN THIS MORNING IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE TITO VISIT (SEPTTEL) AND CSCE IN CONTEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S FEBRUARY 24 REPLY TO THE TITO LETTER.

2. AFTER REMARKING THAT TITO WOULD APPRECIATE THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON CSCE, MINIC ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY TO SECRETARY VANCE HIS WARM REGARDS AND SOME THOUGHTS AS THE CSCE DRAWS TO A CLOSE. THE YUGOSLAV POSITION ON THE BELGRADE MEETING IS REFLECTED IN THE NNA DRAFT DOCUMENT OF FEBRUARY 1. HOWEVER, WHEN THE YUGOSLAVS SAW THE OBSTACLES WHICH THIS PAPER FACED, THEY SOUGHT TO DRAW TOGETHER IN A DRAFT THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH WERE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. EVEN THIS LATEST EFFORT HAS RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES. THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES HAVE DEMANDED A WIDER ROLE FOR EXPERTS MEETING ON MILITARY MATTERS, AND HAVE REMAINED CATEGORICALLY OPPOSED TO ANY MENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING EVEN A PARAGRAPH CONCERNING GREATER FREEDOM FOR JOURNALISTS,

WHICH THEY FEAR MIGHT CAUSE PRESSURES ON THEM INTERNALLY. MINIC

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NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY THE LAST WORD FROM THE SOVIETS, SINCE THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS TO DELIVER LATER TODAY BREZHNEV'S REPLY TO THE TITO'S MESSAGE DELIVERED TO BREZHNEV FEBRUARY 17. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE WEST ALSO HAD OBJECTIONS TO THE RECENT DRAFT, INSISTING ON A PARAGRAPH OF A GENERAL CHARACTER ON THE "HUMAN SIDE" OF CSCE, AND OPPOSING A BROADER MANDATE FOR MILITARY EXPERTS.

3. MINIC THEN SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAD NOW HAD DISCOURAGING INDICATIONS THAT THE EC NINE WERE PRESSING FOR AN END TO THE DEBATE AND ISSUANCE OF A BRIEF DOCUMENT WHICH, THE YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE, WOULD NOT MEET EVEN MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS, AND WHICH WOULD CAUSE THE PUBLIC TO REGARD THE CONFERENCE AS A FAILURE. HE URGED THAT SECRETARY VANCE ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE IDEA OF ISSUANCE OF A DOCUMENT BASED ON THE FEBRUARY 23 YUGOSLAV DRAFT, WITH TWO AMENDATORY PARAGRAPHS WHICH HE HANDED OVER (TRANSMITTED SEPTEL). THE YUGOSLAVS HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED THIS LATEST EFFORT, WITH ANYONE ELSE BUT WOULD TAKE IT UP WITH THE SOVIETS AND OTHERS TO SEE IF A DOCUMENT AT LEAST MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CAN BE AGREED UPON. HE ASKED THAT WE URGE THE EC NINE NOT TO PRESS FURTHER FOR A SHORT DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD SHOW THE MEETING AS A FAILURE.

4. MINIC CLOSED ASKING THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY HIS WORDS TO THE SECRETARY ALONG WITH HIS CONVICTION THAT WE NEED TO MAKE A LAST EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT AN OUTCOME OF THE BELGRADE MEETING WHICH WILL LEND SUPPORT TO THE FINAL ACT AND WILL REFLECT SOME MEASURE OF SUCCESS HERE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THAT SUCCESS WOULD SUPPORT OTHER EFFORTS SUCH AS DISARMAMENT AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

5. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED MINIC THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD REPORT THE CONVERSATION, AND THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW UP WHEN HE
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REACHED THE DEPARTMENT.

6. WE HAVE BRIEFED AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG ON MINIC'S PRESENTATION.
WORTZEL

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NNN

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